



ALL ABOUT THE

New Deal

An activity book

Welcome

Let's meet some of the people involved in the New Deal!



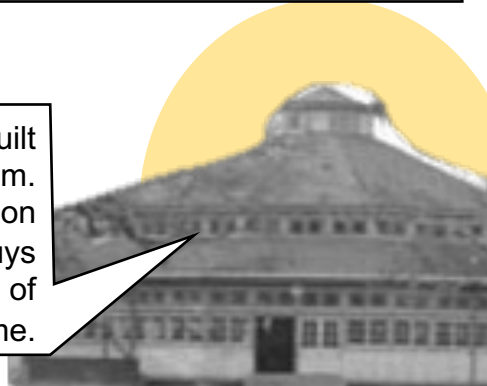
Hi, I'm Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the longest serving and one of the most consequential presidents in US history. During an international crisis when the rest of the world pivoted to the right, thanks to my administration America moved boldly into center-left social democracy!

I'm one of the forgotten men of America. Decades of laissez-faire capitalism has left me alienated and poor. If I can't find a way to support my family soon, I might just have to take matters into my own hands...



I'm Harry Hopkins. I oversaw three major New Deal Programs. I believed that just as much as monetary aid, the American people needed jobs that they felt like were making a difference to make it out of the Depression.

I'm a park in New Orleans. I was built in 1939 by a New Deal program. I may not have transformed the nation but I gave a couple dozen local guys jobs to build me, and generations of kids had a nice time playing on me.



History

In 1929, decades of unfettered capitalism came to their logical conclusion. The US stock market (not to mention the rest of the world's) cratered. Even now with the perspective of COVID and whatever is happening to the economy right now, it is difficult to make the Depression tangible.

The unemployment rate peaked at 25%, but was as high as 40% in some cities. More than a third of farmers in the US lost their land. Georgia and Alabama closed most of their public schools for lack of funds. Power outages swept cities and shantytowns sprung up across the nation. Farmers dumped or burned their crops, unable to make any money selling it, while people in cities had no food. One family in New York resorted to living in a cave in Central Park. Throughout the next decade, drought would cause continent spanning dust storms. The psychological scars of living through this era would radiate down generationally.

Needless to say, it was not a great time to be incumbent president Herbert Hoover, the continuity candidate of a decade of Republican governance. (They even named the shantytowns "Hoovervilles" after him.) The people cried out for something different, anything, and in 1932, they swept into office Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the dandy former New York Governor. Roosevelt promised a New Deal for America, but before inauguration was pointedly light on specifics, leading many to place their hopes in him and others to doubt what he would actually accomplish.

Over the course of an unprecedented four terms, the Roosevelt administration would reshape the nation, remake the federal bureaucracy and fundamentally change the relationship between the average American and their government.

This activity book will explore the various facets of Roosevelt's New Deal and its impacts, successes and shortcomings. Enjoy!

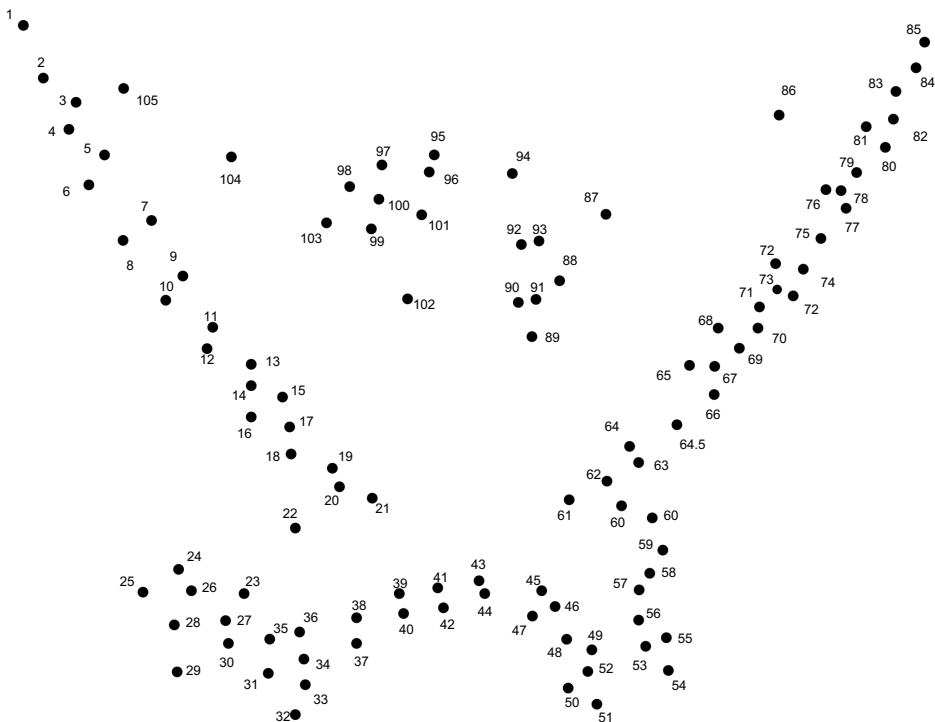
Did you know?

Roosevelt almost never took office, he was nearly assassinated in Miami before his inauguration.

The National Recovery Administration

One of the flagship programs of the First New Deal was the NRA (not that one), created as a part of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933. The NRA's codes established minimum wages, maximum working hours, outlawed hiring discrimination and significantly reduced child labor. Controversially, it also established price controls and price floors. This would lead to its undoing at the Supreme Court in 1935. The NRA also explicitly protected the right to unionize and union membership swelled significantly within the following year.

Membership in the NRA was voluntary, but business that resisted membership often faced boycotts. To demonstrate compliance, businesses would display the NRA logo on posters in the window. Connect the dots below to reveal the logo.



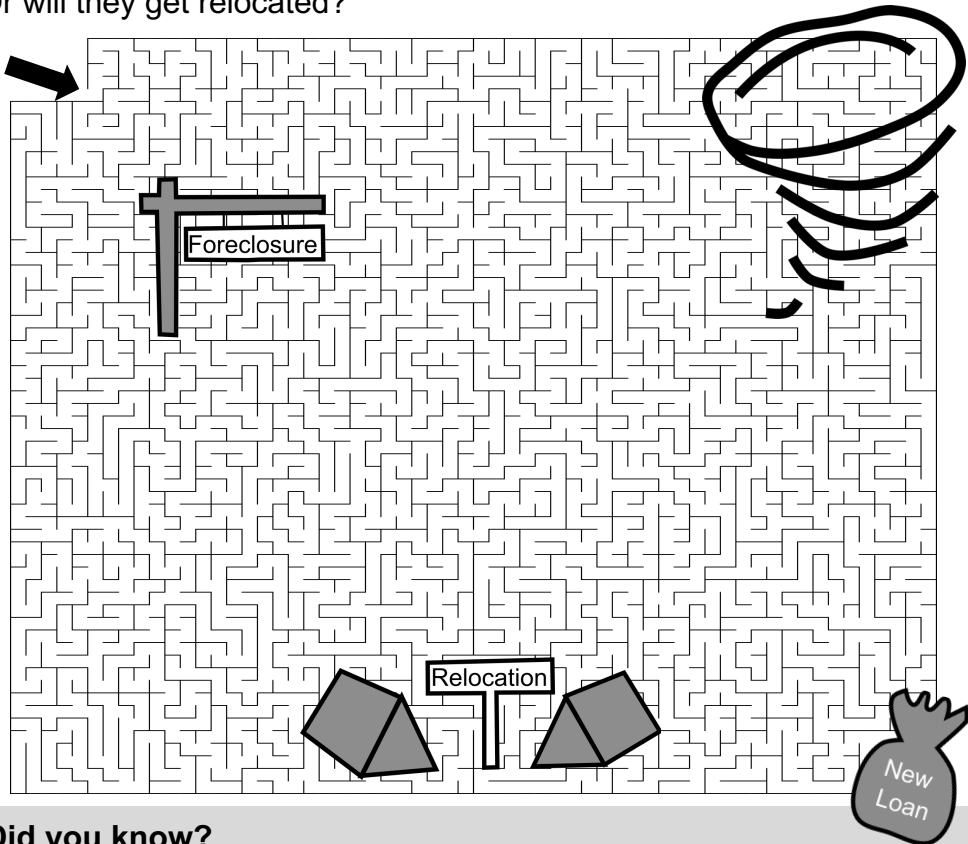
Did you know?

The NRA logo was the namesake of Philadelphia's football team.

Agricultural Adjustment Administration

Many First New Deal programs were created to address the series of crises facing rural America. The Emergency Farm Mortgage act extended the mortgage repayment periods so farmers could keep their land. The Agricultural Adjustment Act provided subsidies for farmers to reduce production of specific crops, therefore increasing demand. The Resettlement Administration bought farmers land and helped relocate them. Much of this aid did not come in time for small farmers, who had already gone bust. Additionally, some of the aid was not equally extended to sharecroppers in the south, who were disproportionately Black.

Can you help this farmer find their way through the maze of obstacles to get their aid? Will they get greater access to credit? Or subsidies? Or will they get relocated?



Did you know?

If you want to learn more about mutual aid among farmers in the 1930s, I have a non-activity book about that.

Civilian Conservation Corps

Many New Deal programs were conceived of to also combat the demoralization that comes with unemployment. This is why they focused on creating jobs for the unemployed instead of only direct cash aid.

Created in 1933, the CCC employed 3 million young men (originally ages 18-25, later 17-28) during its nine years of operation. Enrollees initially enlisted for six months (later extended to a year). They lived in barracks-style camps, were fed three meals a day and earned \$30 a month (about \$750 today), \$5 for them and \$25 for their families.

Though employment in the CCC was prohibited from racial discrimination, many CCC camps, particularly in the South, were segregated on the order of state or local officials. Even in integrated camps, Black workers were disproportionately assigned cooking duties. Despite this, more than 200,000 young Black men in total served in the program. The CCC also operated a separate Indian Division, administered by the tribal nations rather than the states, where more than 80,000 served.

The average CCC worker gained twelve pounds during their tour, from access to better nutrition than at home. Literacy was a requirement of the program, and 57,000 enrollees learned to read during their tours.

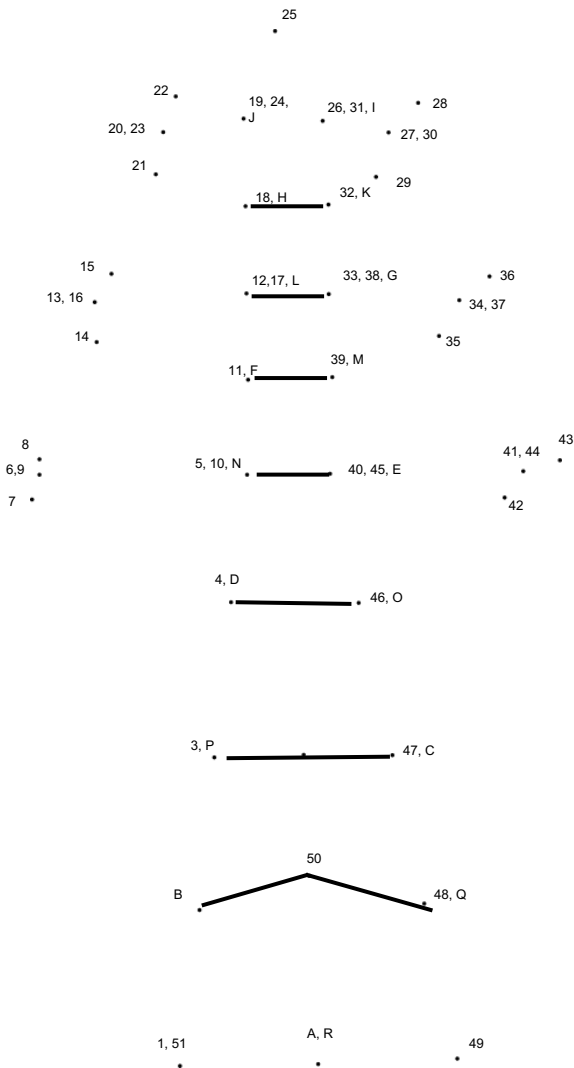
Part of the goal of the program was keeping young men busy and give them training that could help them start careers, as idle, disaffected young men could tend towards the fascistic side. CCC workers built trails, bridges, buildings, and did flood and erosion control. They also planted trees, more than 2.3 billion in total.

Can you draw 2.3 billion trees on the facing page? While doing so, please also feel free to gain 12 pounds and learn to read.

Rural Electrification Administration

In 1930, more than 90% of urban households had electricity, a luxury shared by less than 10% of rural households. The isolation and lack of customer density meant most companies did not find it profitable to invest in rural areas. The REA provided loans to member owned profit cooperatives to purchase power wholesale from utility companies, as well as low interest loans for power line construction.

Can you connect the dots to make this power line to carry electricity to far flung farmsteads?



Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

One of the things that made the 1929 stock market crash and the Depression so pernicious was the failures of the banking institutions. Customers put their money in banks and the banks invested that money into things like the stock market. When the stock market crashed, the banks lost the money they invested. When customers tried to withdraw money that the bank didn't have, this led to bank runs and banks failing. When the bank failed, as an account holder who put your faith in the bank you were, technically speaking, fucked. Nearly a third of US banks failed during the Depression.

Throughout the early 1930s, states tried to prevent bank runs and boost confidence in banks by declaring "Bank Holidays" closing all banks for a set period, preventing anyone from making withdrawals (or deposits). In March 1933, Roosevelt declared a national banking holiday, closing all banks nationwide for four days. Banks were inspected and reopened if they were financially sound enough. A small minority, about 4,000, were closed permanently. The holiday was effective in ending bank runs and rebuilding trust in the financial institutions.

In June, the government took further steps. The Banking Act of 1933 largely separated lower risk commercial banking (which takes deposits and make loans) from higher risk investment banking (which underwrites securities, like stocks).

The Act also created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. At first this was a temporary pool of money that guaranteed accounts up to \$2,500. This meant that if the bank failed, your money (at least some of it) would be safe, guaranteed by the government. This was initially opposed by Roosevelt, who felt that this would encourage mismanagement, as well as large banks, who felt that they would be subsidizing smaller banks. Eventually though, this provision proved incredibly popular and the following year the guarantee limit was raised to \$5,000.

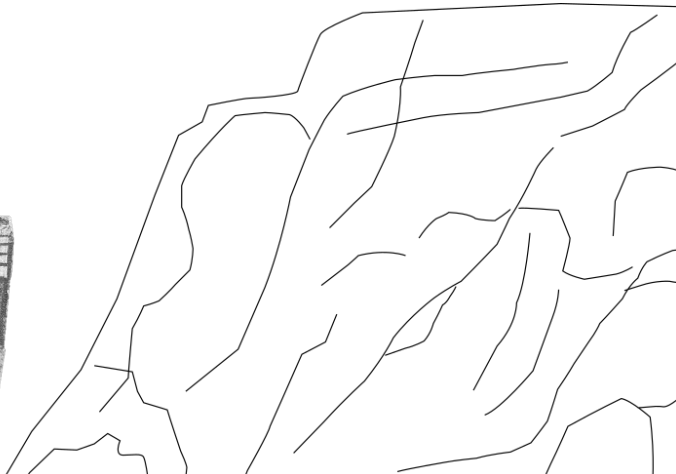
But wait, I promise there's an activity in here somewhere. Go to your financial institution. Right now. (Or open their app). What effects of the New Deal banking reforms can you spot?

Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley was one of the most neglected regions in America. The soil and forests had been harmed by unsustainable agriculture and much of the population lived in abject poverty. Only 2% of families had electricity, 41% had no indoor toilet and 30% of residents had malaria.

The Tennessee Valley Authority was a modernizing project to hire local workers to build a series hydroelectric dams, which would be owned and run by the Authority (a government owned company that would compete with private utilities). The TVA also provided free vaccine programs and training for farmers about how crop rotation can promote soil health. They conducted soil and forest conservation, and trained local workers to staff the dams.

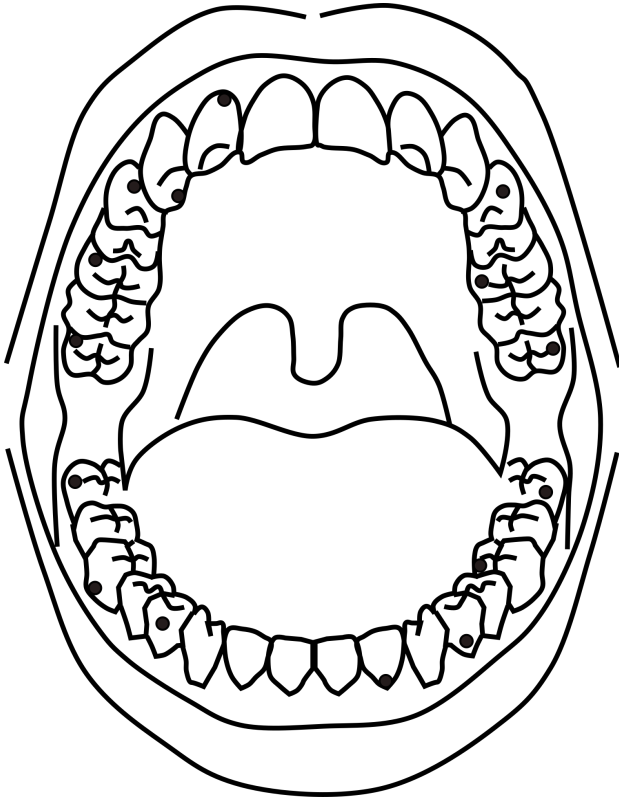
More than 125,000 people were displaced out of areas that would be flooded by construction. Below is a family's shack they've lived in for four generations. Draw them a new house on higher ground. Make sure it has electricity and indoor plumbing, all the fixings. Now make them move there. Flood their old house. How do they feel about this?



Civil Works Administration

The CWA was a temporary work relief program created as part of the Federal Emergency Relief Act, established to provide work to the unemployed during the particularly hard winter of 1933-34. Most of the jobs focused on maintenance and construction: the CWA workers laid 12 million feet of sewer pipes, improved 255,000 miles of road, 40,000 schools and 3,700 playgrounds. The CWA also supported popup and mobile dental clinics. These construction programs would later be expanded by the Works Progress Administration in the Second New Deal. The dental programs would also continue as part of the WPA and in rural areas by run the Farm Security Administration.

Can you find fifteen cavities in the mouth of this American, who has never been to the dentist before ?



The Home Owners' Loan Corporation

In 1930, the majority of American rented their homes. Many that did own their homes did so with the help of a 3-5 year mortgage. When that came due, they would need to take out another one to cover it. The Depression upended this as people lost their jobs and were unable to make their payments.

The Roosevelt Administration attempted to counteract this crisis with two institutions, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) in 1933 and the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) in 1934, which created the long-term fixed rate mortgage (originally 15-20 years, today 30) that is the staple of US housing today. The FHA underwrote new mortgages to increase new homeownership and the HOLC bought mortgages in danger of default and refinanced them, with the goal of keeping homeowners in their homes.

The HOLC created maps of cities across America, evaluating the perceived risk of making loans in that area. Positive qualities included newer housing stock, higher incomes and homeownership rates, and assimilated whiteness. Older housing, renter-heavy areas, and nonwhite and 'ethnic' populations were considered risk factors that would lower the long term building values.

However, these maps, mostly made after 1936, did not actually substantially inform the HOLC loans themselves, most of which were made between 1933 and 1935. Nor did they initially inform the FHA, which had its own separate practices, outlined in its underwriting manual:

"If a neighborhood is to retain stability it is necessary that properties shall continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes. A change in social or racial occupancy generally leads to instability and a reduction of values."

The history of race based housing discrimination is complex. While the HOLC and its maps are a part of it, they have become a bit of a shorthand. Referring exclusively to the HOLC maps lets other actors (like private banks and even other government agencies) get away with diminishing their own roles and elides the prevalence of things like racial covenants and even stochastic terrorism to undermine attempts at integration.

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out

Let's check your comprehension!

The programs of the First New Deal (1933-35) focused on providing emergency relief, rebuilding trust in the financial system and creating regulatory agencies to prevent future depressions. It attempted to stabilize the farm debt crisis, constructed large public works and to provide jobs for unemployed young men. Key provisions of the First New Deal were ruled unconstitutional in 1935, and the Depression had not been shaken.

Most of the New Deal programs had three letter acronyms, derided by some as Roosevelt's Alphabet Soup. See if you can link together the abbreviations!

Down

- 1. Protects your money
- 2. Mapped a lot of neighborhoods
- 4. Early Construction Project
- 5. The utility that brought its service area into the 20th century
- 6. Labor rights, not gun rights

Across

- 3. Planted trees, built parks
- 7. Strung the lines to bring you power
- 8. Then it fixed your farm, today an organization with the same acronym fixes your car

			1 F		2 H
			D		O
			I		L
			3 C	4 C	C
5 T		6 N		W	
V		7 R	E	A	
8 A	A	A			

Supreme Court

Many of the progressive aspirations of the New Dealers were soon dashed on the rocks of one of the most regressive institutions in America: the Supreme Court. Then as now, the court was politically divided, with three liberal justices (nicknamed the Three Musketeers) and four anti-New Deal conservatives (nicknamed the Four Horsemen), with two other justices acting as swing votes. Key provisions of Roosevelt's first term were ruled unconstitutional, including the NRA (again, not that one), a key pillar of agriculture reform, and a minimum wage law for women and children. Following his 1936 election victory, Roosevelt feared that further reforms were under threat and began to advocate a sweeping court reform.

Below is a picture of the Supreme Court in 1935. Notice how there's some standing room behind them. Draw in a few more justices who you think would support your agenda. Maybe another one goalie posing in the front. How many would you need for a solid majority?



Compromise

Roosevelt faced many challenges in implementing his agenda, both personally and politically. His ability to wheel and deal as well as compromise are part of what made him effective. Below you'll see a person, a problem they posed, Roosevelt's solution, and the outcome. See if you can unscramble these four scenarios.

Who?

Your Wife,
Eleanor

Problem?

Keeps ruling
things
unconstitutional

Your beloved
Vice President,
Henry Wallace

Try to coup you

The Supreme
Court

Threatens
divorce, because
of your affairs
with other women

Members of
the business
establishment

Is a socialist

Did you know?

One of the staunchest advocates of the New Deal programs was Eleanor Roosevelt. She traveled extensively to visit work sites and published a syndicated newspaper column six days a week for nearly thirty years.

Roosevelt's Solution

[this has never been
publicly disclosed]

Outcome

They quiet down, and
you don't hang them
for treason

Party establishment
makes you replace
him in 1944

The court stays the
same size, but signs
on to the New Deal

What if she's also
allowed to have
affairs with women
too?

President Harry
Truman

Threaten to pack the
court with progressive
young justices

A happy marriage

The New Deal in the Colonies

New Deal programs also operated in America's territories. Two hundred midwestern farmers were resettled in Alaska. CCC workers in Hawai'i were hired to hunt feral goats and pigs. The Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration funded education, electrification and public works. It also proposed but did not deliver on land reform, drawing criticism from the island's socialist and independence movements who saw the PRRA as a further move towards colonial domination. Even before the Depression, the Virgin Islands economy had been decimated by Prohibition. The Public Works Administration created the Virgin Islands Company to revive the sugar and rum industries manufacturing Government House Rum.

Which of the below bottles matches the leftmost model, pristine and ready to ship, and which need to be sent back to quality control?



1

2

3

4

National Youth Administration

One of Eleanor Roosevelt's chief concerns was the plight of young Americans. Under her encouragement and the direction of civil rights activist Aubrey Willis Williams, NYA focused on youth, ages 16-25, focusing both on providing jobs to unemployed young people not in school as well as providing work study jobs so that young people would be able to remain in school and would not have to drop out to find work. Part of the project of the NYA was extending opportunities to young women, who were ineligible for enlistment in the CCC.

The NYA was also better able to realize the New Deal's racially egalitarian aspirations than many of the other programs. Under the direction of another civil rights activist, Mary McLeod Bethune, the NYA's Negro Affairs Division sought to address the racial disparities in unemployment that faced Black youth. NYA youth were paid equally regardless of race or gender.

The programs of the NYA were flexible to where the programs were located, but all aimed to teach skills and provide services to their communities. NYA youth organized recreational programs, provided assistance in libraries, hospitals and orphanages, assisted in construction projects, shadowed social workers, and assisted in science, history and geography research projects. Additionally, they took industrial and home economics vocational classes.

The NYA was very popular, especially among the youth involved in its programs, but by 1944, the progressive tendencies of NYA leadership had become intolerable to a more conservative Congress and it was terminated.

Let's try out a NYA style work regimen.

Clean up your home a bit. Maybe do some vacuuming. Does your driveway need shoveling? Does your neighbor's? Maybe do that. Go for a walk. Pick up some trash while you're out there. Sign up for a free community ed class. Unlike the NYA, I can't pay you for this (unless this activity book starts doing really, *really* well), but you'll feel useful and you'll be helping out your community and that's the whole point.

Indian Reorganization Act

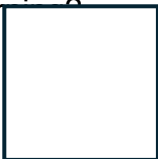
The 1934 Wheeler-Howard Act, also called the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) was pushed by Roosevelt's Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier. Collier's time at the Taos Pueblo convinced him that the fifty years of government policy pushing assimilation was bad for Indigenous people and that Indigenous self-government was the only way forward.

All the federally recognized tribes were given a new template constitution to enact. This took effect automatically unless it was voted down by the majority of adult members. Many votes were boycotted by opponents, and the constitutions were adopted. The Act did restore land and mineral rights to many tribes, as well as about four million acres of reclaimed land. It also slowed allotment, the process by which collectively held reservation lands are parceled out to individual tribal members with the remaining land sold by the government.

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board, established the following year, put in place heavy penalties for creating imitation Indigenous artworks. However, these penalties relied on the existing colonial blood quantum system that underpins federal Indian law.

While the Indian New Deal, as it was called, benefited some tribes, it very much harmed others. Collier's Bureau of Indian Affairs supported the Navajo Livestock Reduction, a traumatic cull of sheep that economically devastated the Diné nation.

Pick one of the boxes below. Now fit an entire Indigenous nation's culture, history and political philosophy inside it. Pick another box and do the same with another Indigenous nation. Continue the process until you have boxes for all 575 federally recognized tribes. How well do you think this is going to work? Also how do you grant self government to nations that are already supposed to be self governing?

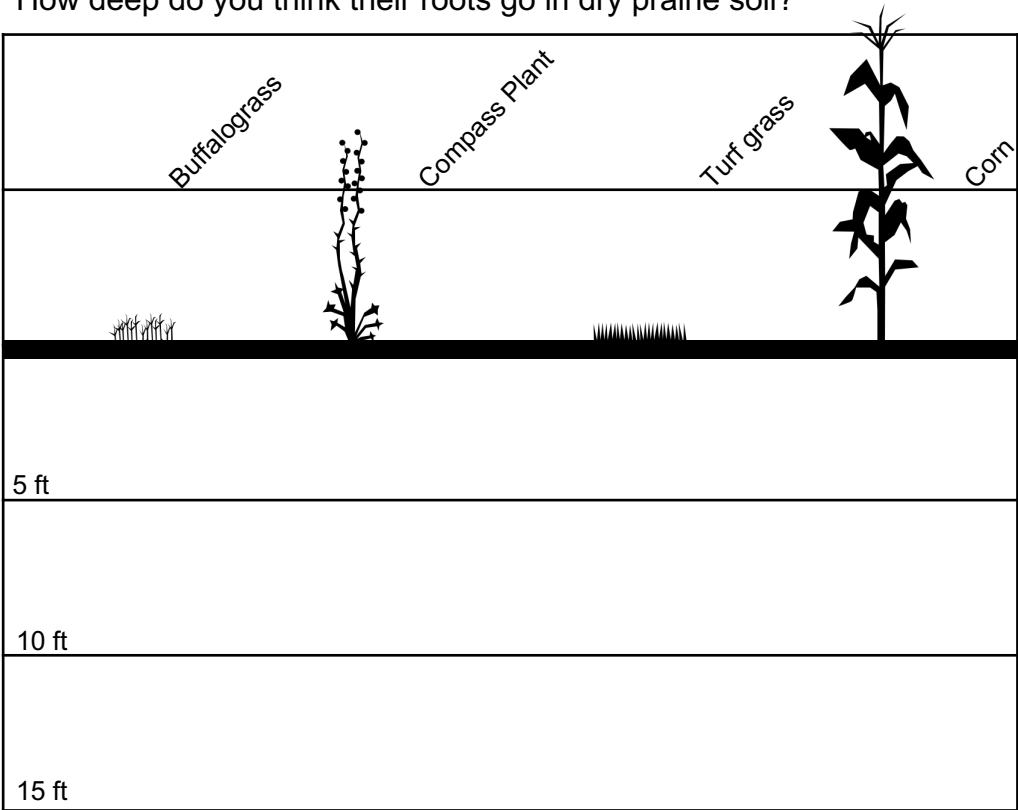


Soil Conservation Service

In addition to the ways farmers were losing their land financially, they were also losing their land literally. It was blowing away. Decades of plowing prairie grassland into cropland meant that when the droughts of the 30s hit, there was little to keep the soil of the Great Plains in place. Dust storms could reduce visibility to as little as three feet and could blow dust as far away as New York.

The SCS combated erosion directly, giving farmers subsidies to plant trees, native grasses and vegetables. Let's look at the aboveground height of some plants, with native plants on the left and introduced plants on the right.

How deep do you think their roots go in dry prairie soil?



Did you know?

The NYA, IRA and SCS were actually part of the first New Deal, but I couldn't make them fit into the word search.

Welcome to the second half!

Despite the resistance of the Supreme Court, Roosevelt continued to expand his programs with the Second New Deal (1935-1938), outlining labor rights, social security, a 40-hour work week, unemployment benefits, restricting the use of child labor and establishing a minimum wage (25 cents an hour, set to rise to 40 over the next seven years)

The flagship program of the Second New Deal (and one of its most popular), was the Works Progress Administration. The WPA expanded employment and public works construction programs begun in the First New Deal. About 7% of the WPA funding went towards Federal Project Number One, which focused on cultural production, employing artists, writers, musicians and other creatives. (In the words of WPA director Harry Hopkins, "Hell, they've got to eat just like other people").

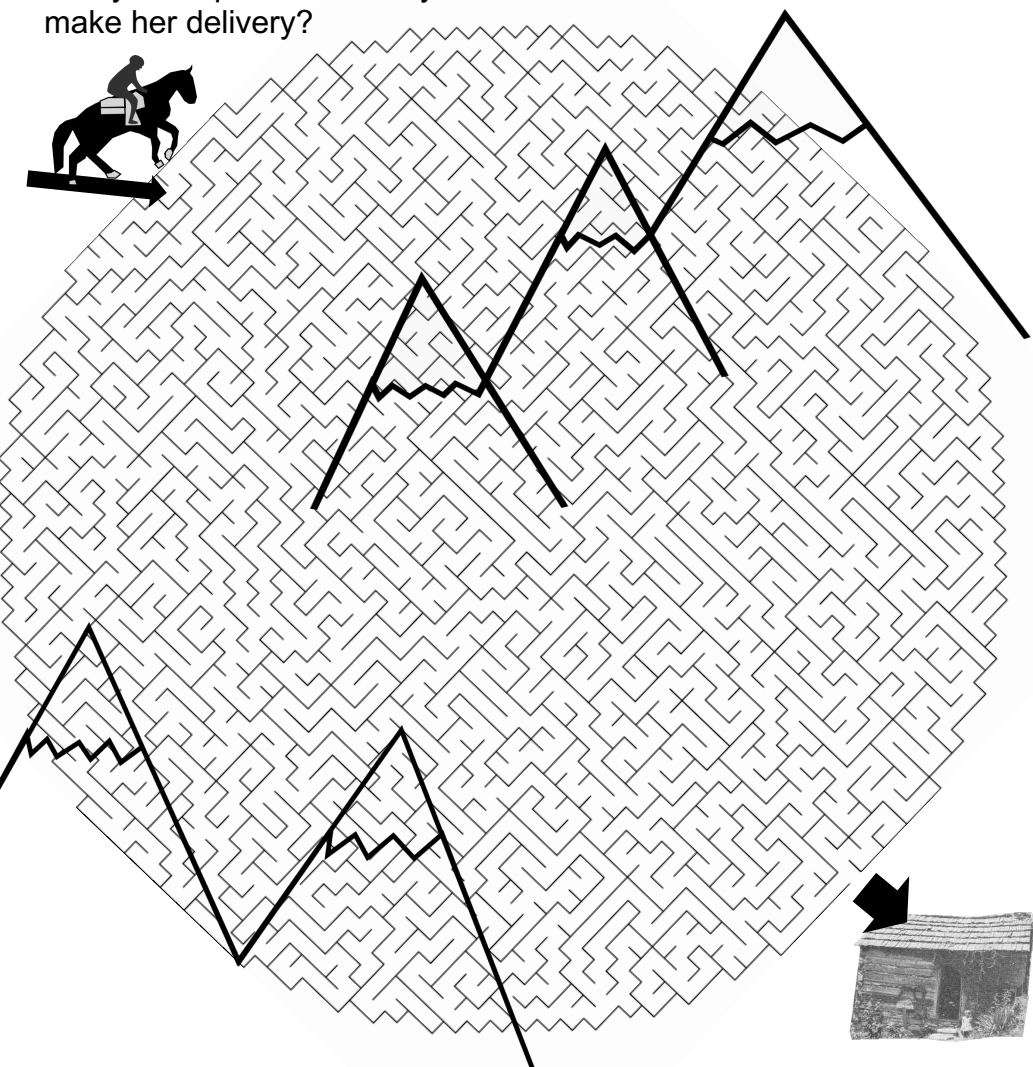
Most of the activities of the second half highlight the programs of Federal Project Number One, although there are two projects, the Historical Records Survey and the Federal Music Project, that did not lend themselves well to activities. Similarly, it was difficult to create an engaging activity related to social security, though this was also a key program.

The success of the Second New Deal, and in particular the WPA, swept Roosevelt to a commanding re-election in 1936, winning five million more votes than his first term.

WPA libraries

Most rural Americans lacked library access even before the Depression, and budget cuts meant that library access actually declined throughout the early 1930s. Particularly in Appalachia, illiteracy rates were high. One WPA program sought to address this by employing local women as librarians. The “book ladies” would travel routes up to 120 miles twice a month by mule, automobile, foot and boat. They delivered books and periodicals and read to the illiterate, earning \$28 per month. Perennial favorites were Mark Twain’s works, *Robinson Crusoe*, and the Bible.

Can you help this book lady traverse treacherous mountain roads to make her delivery?



The Public Works Administration and the

While both the PWA and the WPA were construction-centered programs, there were key differences. The PWA was a First New Deal initiative, focused on large, slow projects, costing more than \$25,000. Grants were awarded to states or municipalities, who would work with private companies to hire workers on the open market.



Works Progress Administration

The WPA was explicitly a make-work program, Most of the workers were hired directly from the unemployment rolls by the federal government. WPA projects cost less than \$25,000, and at their height they employed nearly 4 million workers.

Below are some places built as part of the New Deal. Can you place them on the map? Then underline which you think were PWA and which were WPA.



Federal Writers' Project

Federal Project Number One was established in 1935 and contained five divisions, each focusing on an area of arts or cultural production. One of these was the FWP. Offices in every state employed writers, interviewers and researchers on a starting wage of \$20 per week to create work for government publications. More than 6,000 worked for the project until its termination in 1943.

The writers worked on a variety of projects, which you'll learn about over the coming pages, and a few that you won't, including children's books and ethnographies.

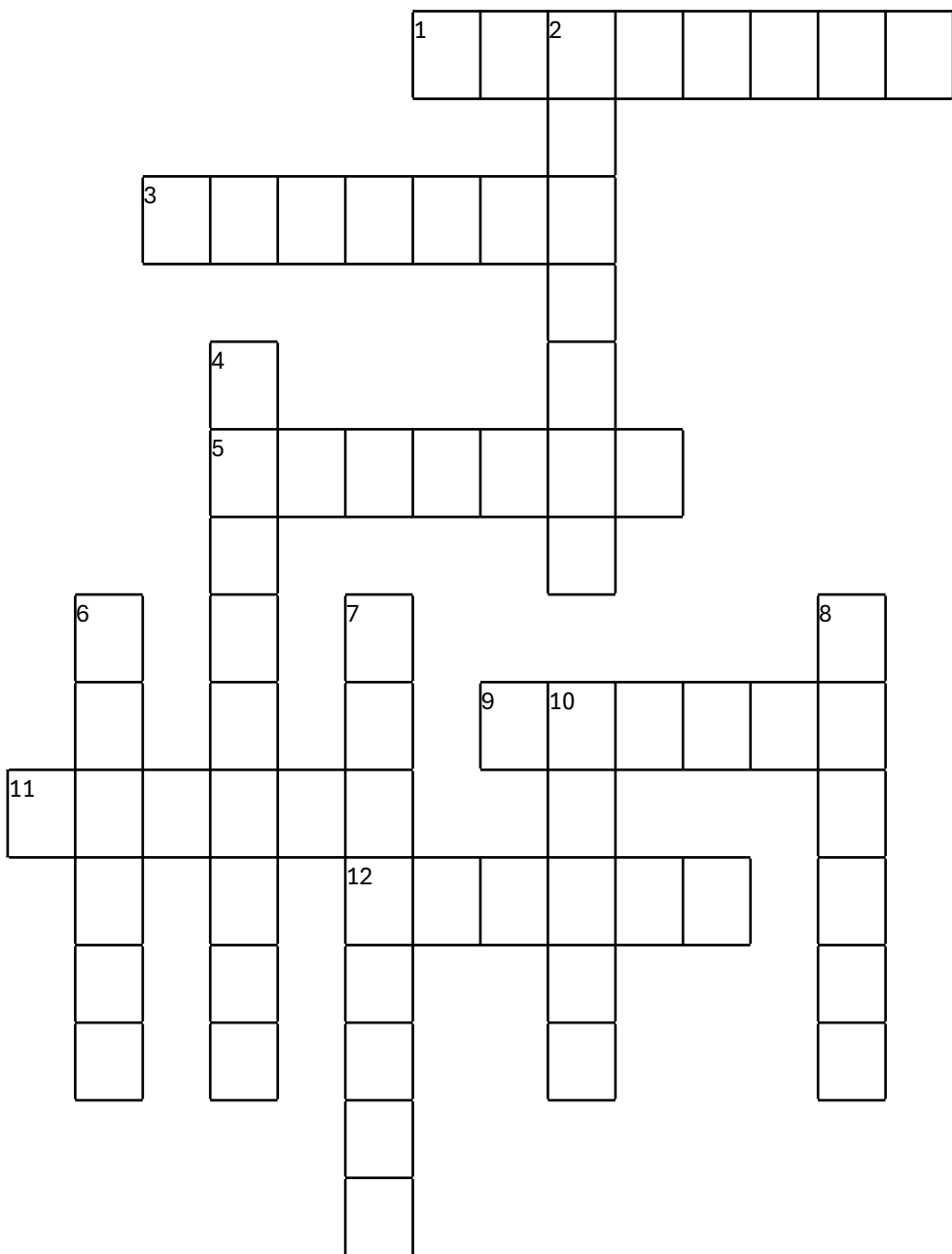
A number of young writers who got their start working with the FWP went on to have long and storied literary careers. Can you name them all? If you're having trouble with this activity, I recommend that you consult an English major, English graduate student, or a person over the age of 65.

Across

1. *Confessions of Edward Dahlberg*, Edward _____
3. *Wapshot Novels*, John _____
5. *Invisible Man*, Ralph _____
9. More than 100 Westerns, Louis _____
11. *Man with the Golden Arm*, Nelson _____
12. *Hard Times*, *Working*, and *American Dreams*, Studs ____

Down

2. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale _____
4. *Salome of the Tenements*, Anzia _____
6. *Herzog*, 1976 Nobel Prize for Literature winner, Saul ____
7. *God Sends Sunday*, *Personals*, editor *Harlem Renaissance Remembered*, Arna _____
8. *Native Son*, Richard _____
10. *Ushant*, editor *The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson (1924)*, Conrad _____



Enslaved Narratives

In the 1930s there were thousands of elderly Black Americans living with memories of enslavement. One of the projects of the FWP was to collect some of these narratives across several southern states. More than 2,300 short form oral histories were collected across 17 states, though their quality is unreliable at best.

Narrators were being asked to recall things from their childhood some 70 years later. Some interviewers adhered strictly to the questions they were given to ask, others were more conversational. No thought was given to how narrators would respond differently to white and Black interviewers. Interviewers often did not adequately explain their purpose beyond being sent by the government. A few narrators had been enslaved by the family of their interviewer. The quality of the audio recordings can be quite poor, and the notes are often inaccurate.

See if you can spot the leading questions and power imbalances in this 1941 interview excerpts between young, white interviewer John Henry Faulk and narrator Harriet Smith, in her 80s in Hempstead, TX.

John Henry Faulk: Well Aunt Harriet about how old are you?

Harriet Smith: Well I don't know Mr. Faulk. I really don't know my age, only by the, the children telling me, of course.

JHF: Well did they treat, did the white folks treat you good?

HS: Why, the B.'s?

JHF: Uh huh.

HS :They was good to us. Good. They never whipped none of their colored people, our colored people. They'd take big saddle horse, Mrs. B's saddle horse, big gray animal, and she'd have them riding. Grandma would ride to Mountain City to church. They had white preachers there. Mr. P., he was one of the preachers that lived across from us.

JHF :Well would the white preacher tell you to behave yourselves?

HS: Oh yes,

JHF: Be good to your master and mistress?

HS: Oh yes. That's what they preach.

WPA director John Lomax wanted the transcripts to reflect speech patterns in 'eye dialect,' so many of the original transcripts showed the narrators speaking in broken, stylized English, at the editorial discretion of the interviewer. Even after the interviews were submitted, there was still substantial editorializing. Despite Lomax's other directive to publish unedited transcripts with no editorial modifications, in practice state and national editors made substantial revisions to fit their preconceived notions of the narrators.

Edith Wyatt Moore, a white woman, spoke to James Lucas, aged about 104 in 1937 in Natchez, MS. Her original transcript described him as responding thusly when asked about freedom:

Dey all had different ways ob thinkin' 'bout hit but most ob 'em wuz like me, dey didn't know what freedom meant. Hit wuz jest a word dats all. Folks dat ain't ebber bin free don't rightly know de feel ob bein' free, or de meanin ob hit.

Can you spot the difference between her account and what the state editors in Jackson sent to Washington?

Dey all had diff'ent ways of thinkin' 'bout it but mos' of 'em was lak me, dey didn' know what freedom meant. It was just somp'n white folks talked about an dats all. Folks dat ain't evah been free don' rightly know de feel of bein' free, an dey don't know de meanin' of it.

How about the differences between that and what the Washington editors approved?

Dey all had diffe'nt ways o' thinkin' 'bout it. Mos'ly though dey was jus' lak me, dey didn' know jus' zackly what it meant. It was jus' somp'n dat de white folks an' slaves all de time talk 'bout. Dat's all. Folks dat ain' never been free don' rightly know de feel of bein' free. Dey don' know de meanin' of it.

Did you know?

The Harriet Smith interview was transcribed in 2015, so it reflects modern transcription conventions rather than the WPA period ones.

Federal Arts Project

The largest division within Federal Project Number One was FAP, a need-based program providing work for unemployed visual artists. Artists were employed to create works for public buildings. Artists would be paid a starting weekly wage of \$23.60, more than 400,000 works would be created by the project. Many organized into the Artists' Union to negotiate for standard working conditions.

The program supported both established and emerging artists, more than 10,000 in total until its termination in 1943. Some of them would go on to shape American art through the course of the 20th century. Can you match the artists to their notable works?



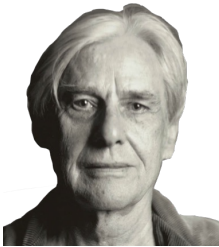
Mark Rothko



Jackson Pollock



Grant Wood



Willem de Kooning



Dorothea Lange



Gerald Nailor



Dox Thrash



Oscar Howe



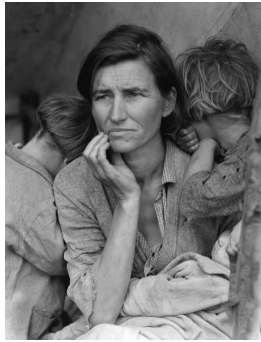
Bumpei Usui



(Tourists)



Furniture Factory



Migrant Mother



Attic



Saturday Night



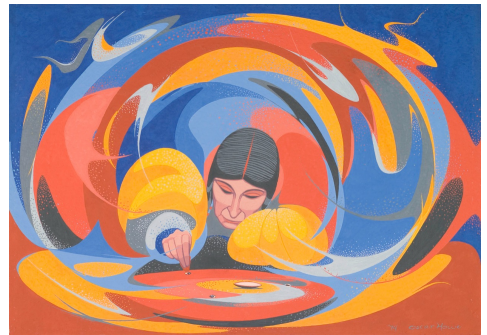
American Gothic



Royal Red and Blue



Autumn Rhythm, (number 30)



Sioux Seed Player

Did you know?

The WPA didn't sponsored post office murals. Those were part of a different program administered by the Treasury department, which was merit based and juried.

American Guide Series

One of the most visible and lasting works of the Federal Writers Project were the WPA guides. Authors in each of the 48 states as well as Alaska, Washington DC and Puerto Rico collaborated to compile massive, standardized books about each state. The most recent comprehensive travel guide to the United States was *Baedeker's United States*, last published in 1909, and which was significantly out of date. The FWP Guides were published from 1937 to 1941 and contained essays, local history and trivia as well as maps, illustrations and photographs. They also featured suggested tours with predicted travel times and costs, and were intended to boost local tourism.

Additional guides were also published about individual cities, and noting regional trails and highways.

Let's do a localized case study, and write a FWP style travel guide to your home. Fill in the blanks to create a scintillating guide sure to boost local tourism.

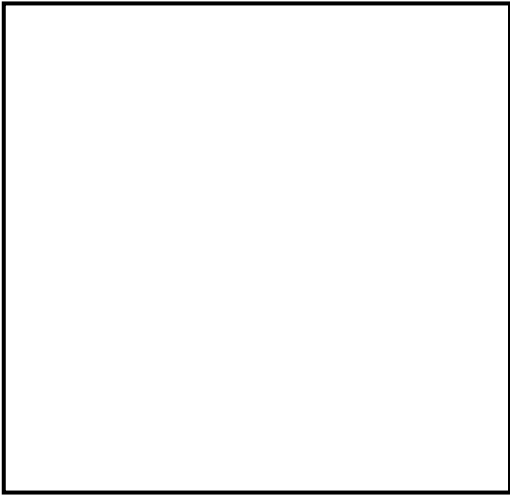
_____ : A Guide to a _____ home!
(Your address) (adjective)

History: It has been used in its current form since _____ (year you moved in)

The People: The land is inhabited by _____,
(how a 1930s anthropologist would describe you)

known for their _____,
(point of personal pride)

_____ and _____.
(second point of pride) (point of personal shame)



A small drawing or map

Natural Resources:

It is rich in _____
(household item you
have too much of)

but suffers from a
chronic lack of

(top item on your grocery list)

Tours: In a tour of local landmarks, be sure
to see the _____. A round trip
(most precariously balanced item in your home)

will take approximately _____.
(how long it takes you to walk across your home)

Dress appropriately as average temps can
be _____. You may even see
(your thermostat temperature)

some of the fauna endemic to the region the

(adjective)

(name of your pet/child/partner)

The cuisine is _____, be sure to
(polite adjective)

sample _____, the local delicacy.
(your favorite snack)

Discrimination in the WPA

Though public narratives around the New Deal highlighted its egalitarianism (particularly around race), many of the programs were, in fact, discriminatory. Some of these were structural nationally, like the risk factors codified by HOLC. Others were the result of discriminatory practices at the level of state administration (particularly in the South). Still others happened at the level of the individuals working within the programs. In New York City, disabled jobseekers were turned away from WPA offices and told their disabilities made them unemployable. They organized as the League of the Physically Handicapped and staged a sit in at the New York Office, and travelled to New York to lobby director Harry Hopkins for the right to access work relief. Below is a photo of one of their 1936 protests, can you draw in a protest slogan on the blank poster?



You might actually know but it's worth a reminder!

Roosevelt went to great lengths to conceal his own disability from the public; virtually no Americans knew that he largely used a wheelchair. His advocacy for research into the polio vaccine through the organization that would become March of Dimes is why after his death he was memorialized on the dime.

America Eats!

Following the success of the state guide series, in 1938 the FWP set out to make another collection, exploring America's regional foodways. Regional headquarters coordinated the compilation of essays and research from the Northeast, South, Middlewest, Far West and Southwest. Final copy for the essays was due in November 1941. Unfortunately, two weeks later the US entry into World War II meant that the government had other priorities, and the essays were never compiled or published.

Below are two ingredients lists, one for a soup and one for a drink. Unfortunately, in the hasty shelving of the project, they seem to have become scrambled. Can you sort them out?

Nutmeg

Two eggs

Four Tbsp
sweet cream

Dash of
ginger syrup

$\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp tomato
catsup

Hot water

Four Tbsp
strawberry syrup

Two Tbsp clam
juice

Dash of cream

Soda Water

Small piece
of butter

Cracked Ice

Federal Theater Project

Another pillar of Federal Project Number One was the FTP, a work relief program for actors, directors, stagehands and theater types who had been out of work. More than a quarter of Americans saw an FTP play. Companies in 22 cities staged local and touring regional productions of old classics, new plays and dramatizations of the news. Their programs including specific divisions highlighting Black and foreign language theater.

Themes of racial integration and labor justice led to the FTP being investigated by Congress for socialistic influences. The project was fully defunded in 1939, laying off about 8,000 workers.

Can you find these threats to America in the corpus of the FTP?

C	O	N	E	I	L	L	C	I	O	N
M	O	E	L	U	N	I	O	N	S	S
L	E	W	I	S	E	T	M	T	O	G
S	T	S	E	R	O	C	M	E	C	R
S	I	P	Q	L	E	M	U	G	I	A
C	S	A	U	N	L	L	N	R	A	T
E	B	P	V	T	I	E	I	A	L	I
R	E	E	A	D	F	R	S	T	I	G
S	T	R	A	N	T	J	M	I	S	R
J	O	S	L	V	D	B	Z	O	M	V
B	B	C	K	V	E	I	L	N	E	E
R	M	T	D	M	A	R	L	O	W	E
V	E	C	S	T	R	N	S	T	M	S

Sinister Themes

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Newspapers | Unions |
| Communism | Socialism |
| Integration | Beavers |

Sinister Artists

- (Orson) Welles
(Eugene) O'Neill
(Sinclair) Lewis
(Christopher) Marlowe

Federal Theater Projects- Puppetry

One of the specific subdivisions of the FTP specialized in puppet theater, and even granted a specific sub project designation. The administrator of this program in Minnesota was Deborah Meader, who was deeply motivated by a care and respect for children's learning and a belief that the collaboration inherent to puppetry would help fight fascism. Meader later adapted her WPA curriculum to a classroom setting; the following is excerpted from a real midterm exam from the late 1930s.

The following statements are true or false. Place + before true statements and - before those that are false.

1. It is a disputed question as to whether puppets do interest children.
2. Group action is the foundation of fascism.
3. The basic objective in handling a puppet is to make it appear to be alive
4. Puppet plays are apt to reduce children's interest in reading.
5. All puppets and setting should be as realistic as possible.
6. It is unnecessary to have an elaborate stage and puppets to begin puppetry.
7. Right and left is the actor's right and left.
8. Lighting helps to intensify atmosphere and mood.
9. An amber light would help to produce an evil mood.
10. A puppeteer attempts to stir up desired reactions in the audience with their voice.
11. All stories should be dramatized
12. Speeches for puppets should be short and clear.
13. Marionettes are adapted for specialties and tricks
14. Human figures of marionettes are more easily operated than animals
15. The voice of the puppeteer is more important than any other element in the casting of a puppet play.
16. Keep the speaking puppet still.
17. When two or more characters enter, the speaker enters first.
18. Cooperation is developed in giving a puppet play.
19. Shy children are released from the self consciousness by the protection afforded by the screen.
20. A shadow production takes longer to prepare than a hand puppet production.

National Labor Relations Act

The NLRA (also known as the Wagner Act) was passed in 1935 and forms the foundation of labor rights in America to this day. It explicitly codified the right of private sector employees to unionize via secret ballot elections, restoring rights that had been rescinded when the NRA was ruled unconstitutional. It established unfair labor practices, making it illegal for employers to prevent employees from joining unions or discriminating against employees who have joined unions, and required that they bargain over pay, wages, hours of work and other conditions of employment.

It also created the National Labor Relations Board and charged it with investigating and adjudicating violations of labor law.

However, the law did have some significant carve outs. The rights of unions would, of course, be gradually whittled away over the ensuing decades.

There were also several notable exceptions to who these rights applied to. See if you can decrypt the emoji code to figure out what sort of workers did not receive rights under the NLRA











It also did not ban discrimination based on



The Mathematical Tables Project

In 1938, an electronic calculator was still decades away. If you wanted math done, you had to do it yourself, with a slide rule. Most labs and researchers used tables calculated by specialists as shortcuts, but these tables were limited in detail by their physical size.

As a part of the WPA administration in New York City, the MTP created jobs for unemployed mathematicians and office workers doing math in a Fordist assembly line. Mathematicians would break complex equations into pieces, and give them to computers (people doing computing), who would return worksheets of results, which would be checked and tabulated. The MTP would produce 28 volumes of calculations in its 10-year run.

Please complete the problems below, this is a matter of national security now!

Find the roots of the following functions

1. $y = 4x^3 - 3x^2 + 5x - 6$

2. $y = (4x+7)^2 * (2x-1)$

3. $y = \sqrt{5-9x}$

4. $y = \frac{4x+4}{3x-1}$

Find the derivatives of the following functions

5. $y = 7x^3 - 10x + 4$

6. $y = x(4x^2 - 7)$

7. $y = \sin(\cos(x))$

8. $y = \tanh(x) + x^2$

Find the following limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{x^2-x-2}$$

Check Your Comprehension, Again

In 1938, a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats critical of the New Deal came to power in the legislature, following an aftershock of the Depression. Many of the Second New Deal programs, particularly those focused on arts and cultural production were investigated for potential subversion by socialists or communists, and were terminated in 1939. Though Roosevelt would remain popular, and would be elected to an unprecedented two additional terms, he would no longer be able to wield the transformational power of his first two terms. Many of the New Deal employment programs officially ended with the United States entry into World War II, but many of its reforms would remain in place, and be expanded on by subsequent administrations.

One of my favorite projects of the New Deal are the posters. The Poster Division of the WPA created more than 35,000 designs, and printed more than 2 million posters. Originally the posters were hand printed, but later were silkscreened. Carl Ziegrosser and Anthony Velonis coined the term “serigraph” to elevate this form of silkscreening as having artistic merit.

In an eclectic visual style influenced by Bauhaus and Soviet Constructivism, the posters imparted clear, positive messages. These included everything from “visit the Grand Canyon” to “treat books kindly” to “get tested for syphilis”. Many of them promoted New Deal programs including parks and Federal Theater Project shows. The posters were not meant to keep, and only about 2,000 of the designs survive today.

The style of the posters have been emulated in recent years by proponents of the Green New Deal as a way to promote the same sort of dynamic, far reaching government program aimed at addressing systemic crises.

In the space provided on the facing page, draw a poster. What excited you about what you’ve learned in this activity book?

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the cultural context of the research. It highlights the need for researchers to be sensitive to the values and beliefs of the communities they are studying. This is particularly important in the field of education, where cultural differences can significantly impact learning outcomes.

The second part of the paper focuses on the methodology used in the study. It describes the process of selecting participants, collecting data, and analyzing the results. The authors emphasize the importance of using a mixed-methods approach to capture both quantitative and qualitative data.

The third part of the paper presents the findings of the study. It discusses the results of the quantitative analysis, which showed a positive correlation between cultural awareness and academic achievement. The authors also present the results of the qualitative analysis, which revealed that students from diverse backgrounds often face unique challenges in the classroom.

The final part of the paper discusses the implications of the findings for future research and practice. The authors suggest that educators should strive to create a more inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment. They also recommend that future research continue to explore the relationship between culture and education.

Conclusion

The New Deal was fundamentally a statist project. As it magnified the state, it magnified its biases, expanding access to liberal social democracy while in some ways institutionalizing the racism that is at the core of the American project. With many of its more radical edges sanded down or truncated by a conservative political establishment, the New Deal did not fix the core societal problems but was a reformist balm, only able to soothe the nation for 30 to 50 years (give or take).

Conservatives obviously hate Roosevelt for wresting power away from them and for creating the regulatory state they so despise. Their later reactions, Reagan and Trump, have made dismantling all parts of the New Deal reforms core to their political philosophies.

Liberals, turning towards conservatism, have come to reject the sort of transformative actions that made the New Deal so lasting (and pointedly, so politically popular). Carter and Clinton too carried on the appeals to the conservative tradition with pushes towards deregulation and undermining programs like the Glass-Steagall and Social Security. Even Obama, adopting an approach of generalized hope, was unable or unwilling to convert his electoral victories into anything other than milquetoast healthcare reform.

Leftists too have come to criticize the New Deal, both from the very valid perspective that it legitimized and institutionalized systemic racism but also for the misguided belief that Rooseveltian social democracy was an off ramp for populist rage that prevented true proletarian revolution from sweeping the nation. To me, this speaks to a misguided view of history. There was not a nascent socialist movement ready to seize on the moment, it had already been kneecapped by the Palmer raids and the first Red Scare. At the point Roosevelt emerged, the choice was going to be between this fancy boy social democracy or domestic fascism led by probably Charles Lindbergh.*

*If you want to argue that Henry Wallace, Norman Thomas or Huey Long would have pulled off revolution my responses are respectively: God I wish, ha, and you play too much Hearts of Iron 4.

Joe Biden positioned himself as governing boldly in the spirit of FDR. Were this true he would have actually won reelection, but more importantly he would have used (or at least threatened to use) administrative power to enact his goals and wouldn't have let core tenets of his agenda be obliterated in court, torn apart in congress or slowed so that they rolled out without the public noticing.

The Roosevelt administration spent most of its tenure trying to build back from the Great Depression and prevent another one from happening. And unfortunately, most of the past 90 years has been spent ripping out the guardrails that were put into place. During the depression, foreign observers marveled at how despite being completely crushed and enraged, most Americans responded not with populist actions but by continuing through their routines by rote force of habit, unable to conceive that the structures of their world were falling apart before their eyes. The relevance of this past moment in our current one was what led me to take a departure from my usual government agencies beat to make this activity book.

I don't want this to be taken as a hagiography, Roosevelt was deeply flawed, personally and politically, as was the New Deal. But he understood that the method for political success was to try something, and continue to try. In pointing out the cyclicity of history and a potential method for us to get through it, I will leave you with a speech Roosevelt gave on his first campaign trail at Oglethorpe University in May 1932:

"The country needs and, unless I mistake its temper, the country demands bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it: If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something. The millions who are in want will not stand by silently forever while the things to satisfy their needs are within easy reach.

We need enthusiasm, imagination and the ability to face facts, even unpleasant ones, bravely. We need to correct, by drastic means if necessary, the faults in our economic system from which we now suffer. We need the courage of the young. Yours is not the task of making your way in the world, but the task of remaking the world which you will find before you. May every one of us be granted the courage, the faith and the vision to give the best that is in us to that remaking."

Sources and Answer Key

In the following pages you will find the solutions to the activities, as well as sources and recommended further reading. This activity book is a pretty significant departure from my previous ones, in that it is attempting to tackle a much larger project and one that is entirely retrospective. While I have still endeavored to ensure that the sources are free and accessible to you, the reader, there are a number of instances where the best (or only accounting) of the projects were paywalled academic papers or books. If you do not have institutional access to these, I highly recommend your local library or interlibrary loan. There are also other methods of acquiring these writings that I am not able to put into print.

Below are some sources that shaped my understanding of the New Deal, and have influences across the project beyond any single activity.

Jefferson Cowie And Nick Salvatore. "The Long Exception: Rethinking The Place Of The New Deal In American History." International Labor And Working Class History. Fall 2008.

This essay is a good overview of how we should retrospectively understand the New Deal, not as a permanent sea change but as a high water mark.

Johnathan Alter. *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*. Simon and Schuster. 2006.

Alter is a bit more biographical than my usual sources, but I think does a good job of encapsulating the 1933 spirit of experimentation.

Living New Deal.org

This site is exhaustive, a collaborative effort compiling essays, photographs and maps of the wide reaching impacts of New Deal programs, particularly its construction projects.

Paul Buhle and Sabrina Jones. *FDR and the New Deal for Beginners. ForBeginners*. 2010.

A very concise little history, partially illustrated. It is not especially critical of the shortcomings of the New Deal, and the sourcing is not extensive, but it is a good overview.

Studs Terkel. *Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression*. Pantheon Books. 1970.

This is a good exploration of what the Depression (and the hopes of the New Deal) felt like, with people from a variety of walks of life.

William Leuchtenburg. *Franklin D Roosevelt and the New Deal*. Harper. 1963.

A thorough look back at the growth and evolution of the New Deal, written when it was still solidly in living memory. Generally considered the standard account of the New Deal.

National Recovery Administration

Connecting the dots will reveal the outline of the NRA, their famous Blue Eagle designed by Charles T. Coiner. The other NRA also had an eagle-heavy logo at this time but they really didn't get up to much until the 1970s.

Sources

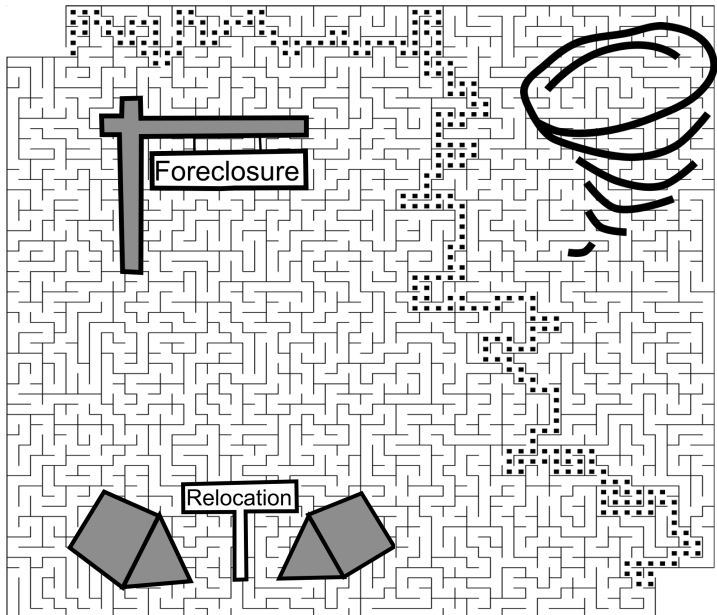
- Barbara Alexander. "National Recovery Administration." *Economic History Association*. 2001.
- Matt Benedetto. "Why are the Philadelphia Eagles called the Eagles?" ABC27, 2023.
- "National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933." Virginia Commonwealth University libraries, Social Welfare History Project.



Agricultural Adjustment Administration

Sources

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- Timothy Eagan. *The Worst Hard Time*. Houghton Mifflin. 2006.



Civilian Conservation Corps

While you were drawing those trees, you know what you weren't doing? Fomenting domestic fascism. See? It worked.

Sources

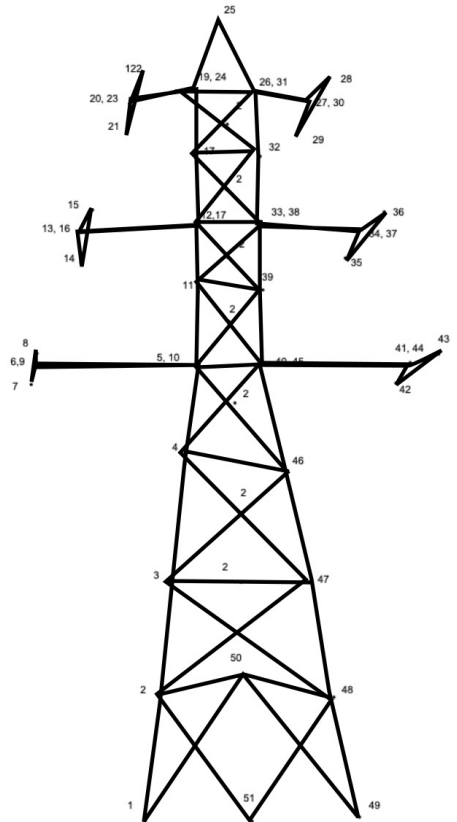
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- Cody White. "The CCC Indian Division." Genealogy Notes. Summer 2016, Vol. 48, No. 2
- "Company 818 And Segregation In The Civilian Conservation Corps." National Parks Service.
- J.J. McEntee. "The Final Report Of The Director Of The Civilian Conservation Corps, April 1933 Through June 30, 1942."
- Joseph Speakman. "Into The Woods: The First Year Of The Civilian Conservation Corps." Prologue. Fall 2006, Vol, 38, No 3.
- Leo Caisse. "The Civilian Conservation Corps In Rhode Island, 1933-1942." Small State Big History. 2018.

Rural Electrification Administration

By 1960, essentially all rural households had been electrified.

Interestingly, a nearly identical problem has presented itself in the last 30 years. More than 25% of rural American lack quality internet access and internet providers feel it would be unprofitable to expand infrastructure to rural areas.

Too bad there's no model for how to address this problem.



Sources

- Johnathan Shipley. "A Light Went On: New Deal Rural Electrification Act." Living New Deal. 2020.
- Joshua Lewis and Edson Severini. "Short- and Long-Run Impacts of Rural Electrification: Evidence from the Historical Rollout of the U.S. Power Grid." Journal of Development Economics, 2020.
- Laurence Malone. "Rural Electrification Administration: Market Failure in Delivering Electricity to Rural Areas Before 1930." Economic History Association. 2008.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

If your financial institution is a bank, you should see a sign in the lobby (or on the app) saying that your deposits are FDIC insured to a maximum of \$250,000. If you have a credit union, that's also thanks to the New Deal, the Federal Credit Union Act was passed in 1934. Credit unions have a different kind of insurance not through the FDIC. You won't find any remnants of Glass-Steagall though. After a conservative financial turn in the 70s, it was chipped away, and in 1999 it was effectively nullified. Then nine years later the economy went to shit. I'm sure this was unrelated.

Sources

- Julia Maues. "Banking Act of 1933 (Glass-Steagall)" Federal Reserve History. 2013.
- Robert Jabaily. "Bank Holiday of 1933." Federal Reserve History. 2013.

Tennessee Valley Authority

You know, they don't love it. I'm sure they'll get over it though, it's probably fine. The march of progress goes ever onward. If you want to watch a movie about this, I recommend O Brother Where Art Thou (2000).

Sources

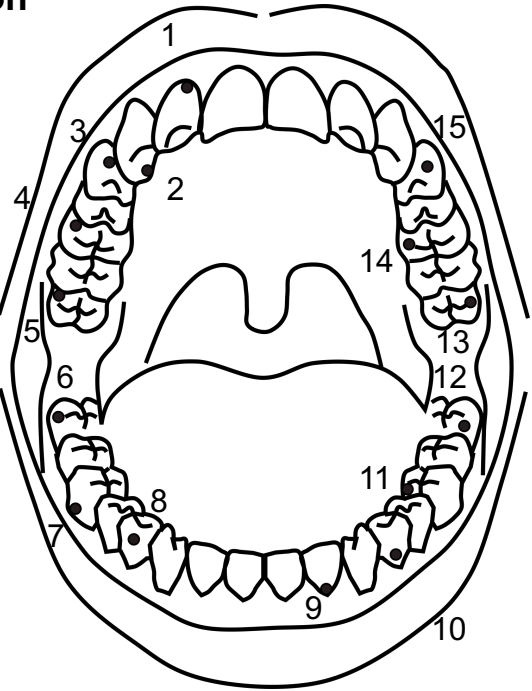
- "A Shot in the Arm" Tennessee Valley Authority.
- "Saving Chattanooga." Tennessee Valley Authority.
- "TVA: Electricity For All." New Deal Network.
- Community Uprooted: Eminent Domain in the U.S., Poverty, Addressing Substandard Living Conditions." Loyola University.

Civil Works Administration

The real miracle is that they still have all their teeth.

Sources

- Brent McKee. “New Deal Accomplishment: Millions of free dental examinations & treatments for low-income Americans.” Living New Deal. 2025.
- Brent McKee. “Remembering the New Deal during Black History Month: Dental services.” New Deal of the Day. 2018.
- Charles Searle. *Minister of Relief; Harry Hopkins and the Depression*. Syracuse University Press, 1963.



Home Owners Loan Corporation

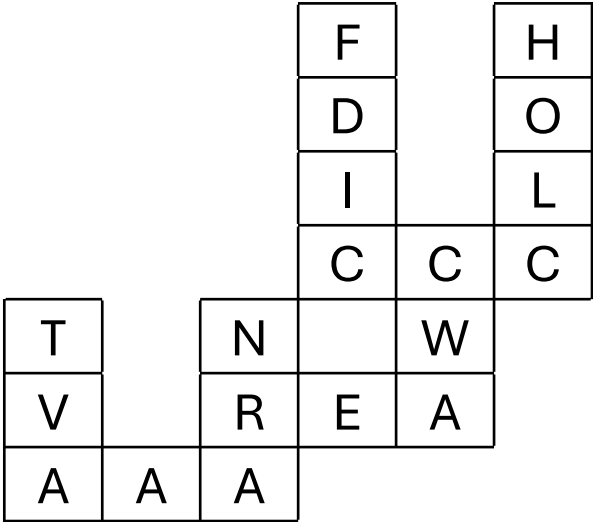
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. H, rated Best | 6. D, Hazardous |
| 2. A, Hazardous | 7. E, Still Desirable |
| 3. F, Definitely Declining | 8. G, Hazardous |
| 4. C, Still Desirable | 9. B, Best |
| 5. I, Definitely Declining | |

Sources

- Alan Mallach. “Redlining Maps Didn’t Affect Neighborhoods the Way You Think They Did.” Shelterforce. August, 2024.
- Price Fishback, Jessica LaVoice, Allison Shertzer, Randall Walsh. “The HOLC Maps: How Race and Poverty Influenced Real Estate Professionals’ Evaluation of Lending Risk in the 1930s.” Cambridge University Press. 2023.
- Richard Rothstein. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. Norton. 2018.
- *Underwriting Manual of the National Housing Act*. Federal Housing Authority. 1935, 1936, 1938.
- Mapping Inequality, Redlining in New Deal America, a project of the University of Richmond

Check Your Comprehension

This activity was inspired by a political cartoon from 1935 by Vaughan Shoemaker in the Chicago Daily News,



Supreme Court

It turns out, you wouldn't need any. The two swing justices, Chief Justice Charles Evan Hughes, and Owen Roberts reasoned that if they did not support some of the New Deal reforms, their power on the court would be substantially reduced by the reforms. In the following year, they ruled to uphold the constitutionality of the NLRA, Social Security and a new minimum wage law. The composition of the court was further changed over the next three years when two of the Horsemen died, and one retired. While ultimately, Roosevelt's gambit worked, it preserved the legitimacy of the nine justice court that plagues us today.

Sources

- David Adler. "The Four Horsemen: A Conservative Supreme Court Bloc with Outsized Influence that Resonates in Our Time." South Dakota Humanities Council. 2024.
- William Leuchtenburg. "When Franklin Roosevelt Clashed With the Supreme Court—and Lost" Smithsonian Magazine, 2005.
- Leon Julius Biela. "How to Avoid Dictatorship: The Public Debate Over Franklin D. Roosevelt's Court-packing Plan and Its International Context" Journal of Supreme Court History, Volume 49, Number 1. 2024.

Compromise

Eleanor Roosevelt- threatens divorce-she's allowed to have affairs- a happy marriage.

Eleanor's....good friend....Lorena Hickock actually lived at the White House for a number of years.

The Supreme Court- unconstitutionality- threaten court packing- oh look they're ok with it now

Henry Wallace- is a socialist- replace him in 1944- President Harry Truman. Truman was the establishment favorite, and with Roosevelt's death shortly after his fourth reelection, he became president. Harry Truman was also...one of the more evil men to become President.

Business Leaders- try to coup you, [redacted]- they lighten up on challenging new deal reforms.

If you want to watch a really awful movie about the Business Plot, I cannot recommend Amsterdam (2022). I am told that watching me watch that movie was like watching someone have a stroke for two hours.

Sources

- Jules Archer. *The Plot to Seize the White House*. Skyhorse. 2015.
- Roger Streitmatter. *Empty Without You, the Intimate Letters of Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickock*. Free Press. 1999.

New Deal in the Colonies

Bottle #3 is the match. The PRRA outlasted many New Deal programs, running until 1955 in the face of persistent budget cuts. The VICO essentially eliminated unemployment for its first few years and produced three types of rum: White Label, Gold Label and Dark Label, until its termination in 1966.

Sources

- "Alaska Far Away, The New Deal Pioneers Of The Matanuska Colony." PBS. 2008
- Brent McKee. "A New Deal for Hawaii." New Deal of the Day. 2015.
- Brent McKee. "A New Deal for the Virgin Islands." New Deal of the Day. 2016
- Brent McKee. "New Deal Rum." New Deal of the Day. 2016.
- Ian Seavey. "'Government House Grog: Rum, Mercantilism, and the New Deal in America's Caribbean Empire.'" Business history Conference. Forthcoming, 2026.

National Youth Administration

Great job! The success of this activity is a bit hard to evaluate in advance to be totally honest.

Sources

- Aubrey Williams. “The College and High School Aid Program of the National Youth Administration.” National Archives, via Virginia Commonwealth University Social Welfare History Project.
- Jametta Davis. “Providing a New Deal for Young Black Women: Mary McLeod Bethune and the Negro Affairs Division of the NYA.” *Rediscovering Black History, National Archives*. 2014.
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Indian Reorganization Act

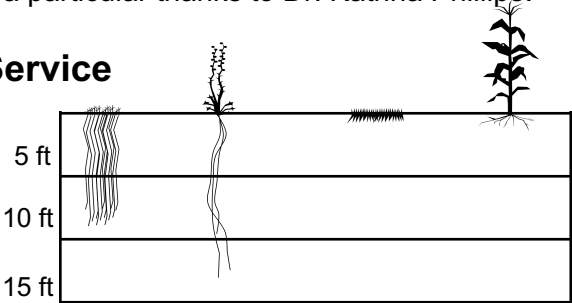
Collier is a mixed bag. He was better than essentially any BIA official who came before him. He was also better than his successors, who pursued the termination of tribal rights. To me, he represents the essence of the New Deal, well intentioned progressive reform that does not change an underlying problematic (in this case, colonial) structure. The fact that the main opponents of the IRA were religious assimilationists and western ranching and mining interests says something to its credit.

Sources

- “Indian Arts and Crafts Board.” *Living New Deal*.
- “Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Government Student Handbook.” *Bemidji Pioneer*. 1978.
- “Starving the Navajo 1933-1945.” *Project 1492*.
- Vine Deloria Jr. *The Indian Reorganization Act, Congresses And Bills*. University of Oklahoma Press. 2002.
- This section is also brought to you by my undergraduate degree in Indigenous history, with a particular thanks to Dr. Katrina Phillips.

Soil Conservation Service

- Buffalograss, 8 feet
- Compass Plant, 15 feet
- Turf Grass, 1 foot
- Corn, 2 feet



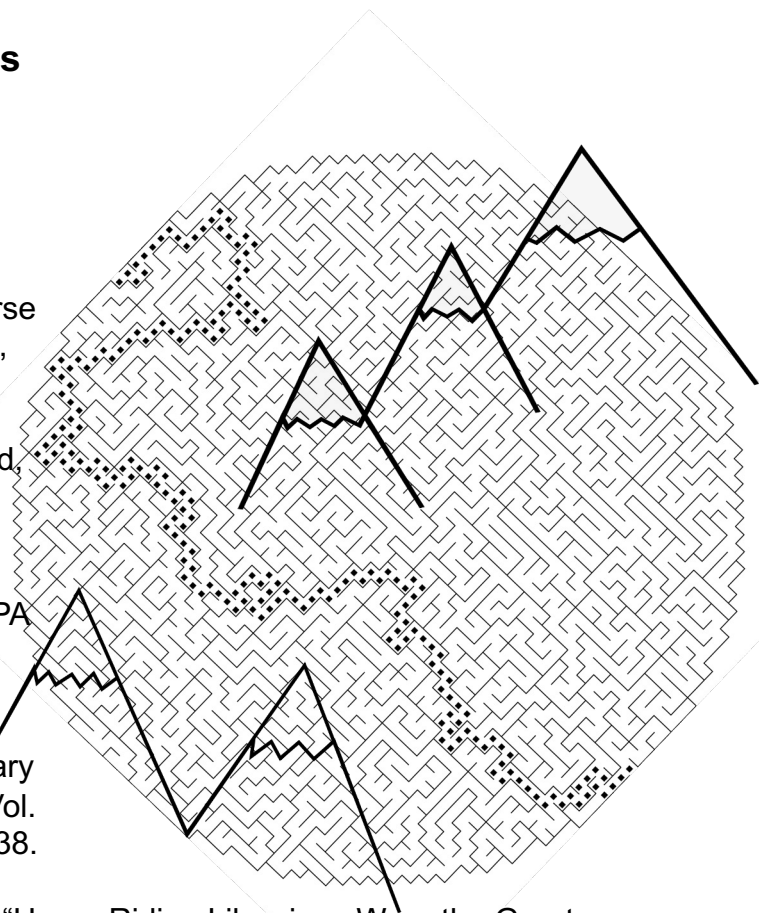
Sources

- Andrew Glass. "FDR signs Soil Conservation Act, April 27, 1935," Politico. 2010.
- Heidi Natura. "Root Systems of Prairie Plants." Conservation Research Institute. 1995.
- James Beard. "Turfgrass Root Basics." TURFAX Vol 9, No. 3. May-June. 2001.
- John Weaver. *Root Development of Field Crops*. McGraw-Hill. 1926.
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WPA Libraries

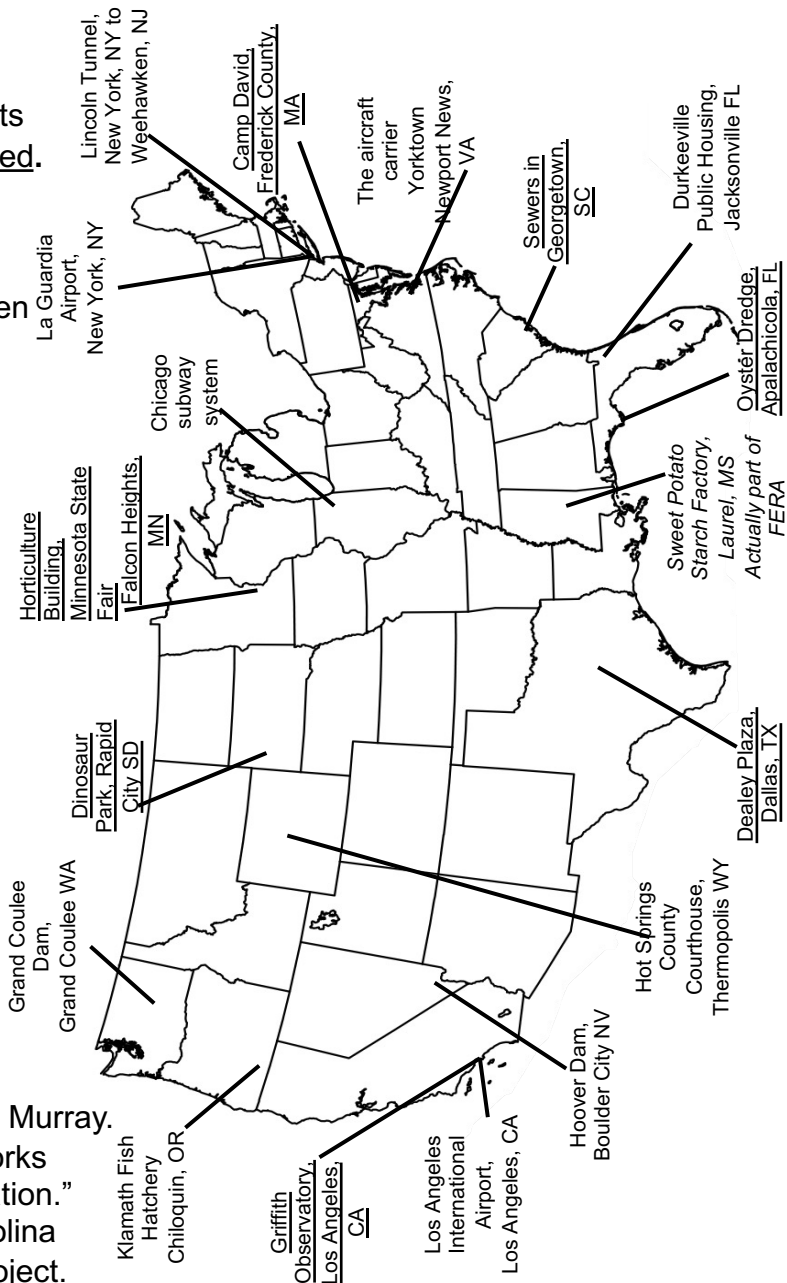
Sources

- Donald Boyd. "The Book Women of Kentucky: The WPA Pack Horse Library Project, 1936-1943." *Libraries & the Cultural Record*, Vol. 42, No. 2. 2007.
- Edward Chapman. "WPA and Rural Libraries." *Bulletin of the American Library Association*, Vol. 32, No. 10. 1938.
- Eliza McGraw. "Horse-Riding Librarians Were the Great Depression's Bookmobiles." *Smithsonian Magazine*. 2017.
- "WPA travelling libraries." 1937. Record Group 69, Series 743, Box 1. National Archives, via Virginia Commonwealth University Social Welfare History Project.



PWA and WPA

WPA Projects are underlined. Additionally, most of the PWA public housing, even in the north was segregated.



Sources

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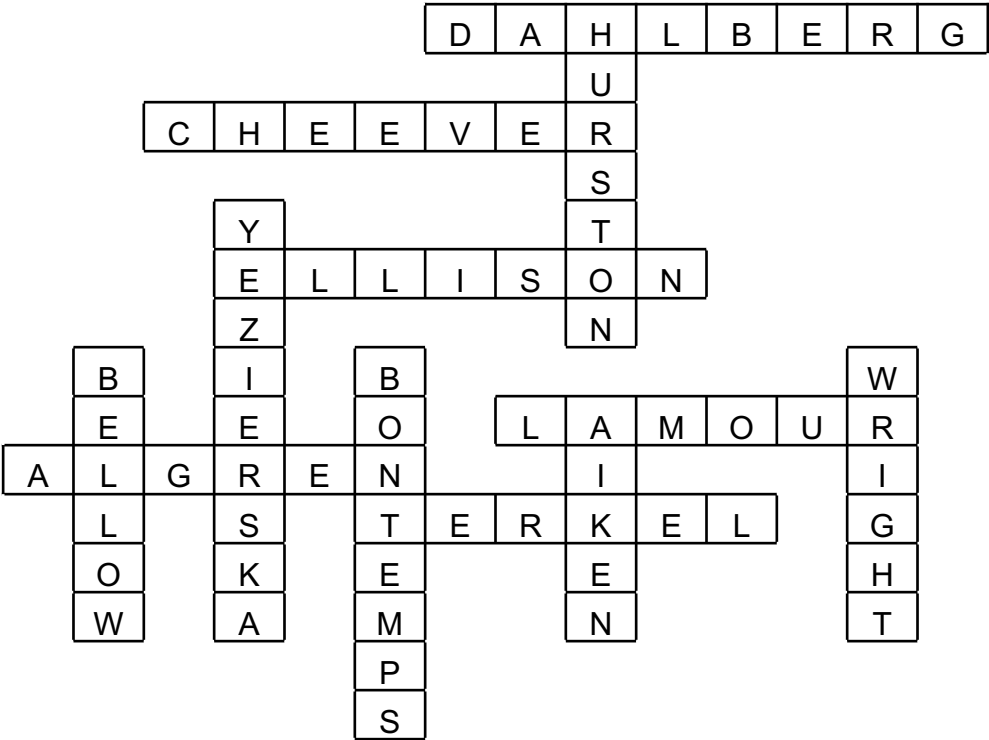
- *America Builds: The Record of the PWA*

Locations sourced from

- LivingNewDeal.org

- Linda Levine. "Job Creation Programs of the Great Depression: the WPA and the CCC." Congressional Research Service report for Congress. January 13, 2010.

Federal Writers’ Project



Sources

- David Taylor. “Soul of a People, the WPA Writers Project Uncovers Depression America” Wiley. 2009.

Enslaved Narratives

Sources

- “Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936 to 1938.” Library Congress
- Ellen Hampton. ” ‘Lawdy! I was sho’ happy when I was a slave!’: Manipulative editing in the WPA former-slave narratives from Mississippi.” L’Ordinaire des Amériques 215(215). February 2014.
- Debbie Nathan. “Hearing Harriet Smith.” JSTOR Daily. 2015.
- John Henry Faulk. “Interview with Aunt Harriet Smith, 1941, Hempstead Texas.” National Archives.
- Neil McMillen. “WPA Slave Narratives.” Mississippi History Now. 2005.
- Rebecca Onion. “Is the Greatest Collection of Slave Narratives Tainted by Racism?” Slate. 2016.

Federal Arts Project

Mark Rothko, Royal Red and Blue

Willem de Kooning, Attic

Dox Thrash, Saturday Night

Jackson Pollock,* Autumn Rhythm, Number 30

Dorothea Lange,** Migrant Mother

Oscar Howe, Sioux Seed Player

Grant Wood, American Gothic

Gerald Nailor, (Tourists)

Bumpei Usui, Furniture Factory

*Jackson Pollock made the only mosaic of his career (not pictured) for the WPA.

**Dorothea Lange did not actually work for the Federal Arts Project, rather she worked for the Farm Security Administration.

***Also listen. This acronym was perfectly innocuous before the 1990s.

Sources

- Greg Robinson. "Hidden in Plain Sight: Rediscovering the Life and Art of Bumpei Usui." Discover Nikkei. 2021.
- Nicholas Rosenthal. "Painting Native America in Public: American Indian Artists and the New Deal." Loyola Marymount. 2018
- Patricia Raynor. Off The Wall: New Deal Post Office Murals. Enroute, Vol 6, Is 4. 1996.
- Other sources from LivingNewDeal.org

American Guide Series

I'm sure that with a little spiffing up by an editor you'll be ready for publication in no time. The full text of many guides are available as a part of the Rowan University collection "American Guide Series: The WPA Federal Writers' Project: The Guides"

Sources

- Christine Bold, The WPA Guides Mapping America. University of Mississippi Press, 1999
- Scott Borchert. "How WPA State Guides Fused the Essential and Eccentric." Humanities. Fall 2023, Volume 44, Number 4
- Wendy Griswold, American Guides: The Federal Writers' Project and the Casting of American Culture. University of Chicago Press. 2016.

Discrimination in the WPA

The original poster reads "We want the promised 5000 jobs."

Sources

- Dylan Tsolakos. "League of the Physically Handicapped." 2021.
- Paul K. Longmore. "The League of the Physically Handicapped and the Great Depression: A Case Study in the New Disability History." *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 87, No. 3. December, 2000
- Skyland Post (of West Jefferson NC), June 25, 1936.
- Thesis on Conditions of the Physically Handicapped. Circa 1937. San Francisco State University special collections.

America Eats

In 2019, researchers at the Michigan State University put together whatamericaate.org, compiling a number of the collected recipes. Unfortunately, this website is not fully archived and not currently available, so these recipes came from *On Uncle Sam's Water Wagon* by Helen Watkeys More, originally published in 1919 by the Knickerbocker Press and republished in 2012 by Applewood Press. The unscrambled ingredients are as follows, in recipe form:

The Windsor Shake:

Put into a shaker four tablespoonfuls of strawberry syrup and add two eggs, a dash of ginger syrup, four tablespoons of sweet cream, and a little cracked ice. Shake well, add soda, water, and pour from shaker to glass several times to thoroughly blend.

Clam Juice and Tomato Catsup.

Mix two tablespoonfuls of clam juice with one half tablespoonful of tomato catsup and a little cream. Add a small piece of butter and fill up the glass with hot water. A grating of nutmeg may be added.

Additional sources

- Pat Willard. *America Eats! On The Road With The WPA, The Fish Fries, Box Supper Socials And Chitlin Feasts That Define Real American Food*. Bloomsbury USA. 2008.
- Mark Kurlansky. *The Food of a Younger Land*. Riverhead books, 2010.
- Nicole Jankowski. "The Grand, Unfinished Task Of Chronicling How America Eats." NPR. 2016.

Federal Theater Project

In testimony to the Dies
Committee, FTP Director
Hallie Flanagan

responded to questioning
by clarifying that
Christopher Marlowe was
not, in fact, a communist
but was in fact, “the
greatest dramatist in the
period immediately
preceding Shakespeare.”

Sources:

- Hearings Before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1938–1944, Volume 1.
- Charlie Tyson. “Stealing the Show Why conservatives killed America’s federally funded theater.” The Yale Review. 2024.
- “Federal Theatre Project, 1935 to 1939” Library of Congress.
- Shelia Collins and Gertrude Goldberg. “The Federal Theater, Where Art Went to Live.” Living New Deal. 2021.

Federal Theater Project- Puppetry

To date there is not a comprehensive accounting of the puppetry productions of the WPA but I’m working on it.

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T | 11. F | 16. F |
| 2. F | 7. T | 12. T | 17. T |
| 3. T | 8. T | 13. T | 18. T |
| 4. F | 9. F | 14. F | 19. T |
| 5. F | 10. T | 15. T | 20. T |

Sources

- Elizabeth M Coburn. “The Power of Puppetry, the Career of Deborah Simmons Meader, 1927-1942.” The Deborah Simmons Meader Papers, Minnesota Historical Society.
- Deborah Meader “Puppetry Today” Unpublished class lecture notes, c. 1936. The Deborah Simmons Meader Papers, Minnesota Historical Society.

National Labor Relations Act



Railroad workers*



Domestic Workers



Government workers



Agricultural laborers



Employed by a parent or a spouse



Race

*Railroad workers were covered under the separate 1926 Railway Labor Act

Sources

- The National Labor Relations Act, July 5, 1935.

Mathematical Tables Project

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. 1 | 6. $12x^2 - 7$ |
| 2. $-7/4, 1/2$ | 7. $\sin(x)(-\cos(\cos(x)))$ |
| 3. $5/3$ | 8. $2x + \operatorname{sech}^2(x)$ |
| 4. -1 | 9. $1/3$ |
| 5. $21x^2 - 10$ | |

Sources

- David Grier. "The Math Tables Project of the Work Projects Administration: The Reluctant Start of the Computing Era." IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, Vol 20, No 3. 1998.

Check Your Comprehension, Again

A number of WPA posters are collected on the Library of Congress website, they are in the public domain as they were created for the government.

Sources

- Arpie Gennetian. "WPA Posters: Art for The Common Good." Objective. Issue 5. 2021.
- Ennis Carter and Christopher DeNoon. *Posters for the People: The Art of the WPA*. Quirk Books. 2008.

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"Wait this is really good actually!"

- A professor

"Does not meet our standards at the current time"

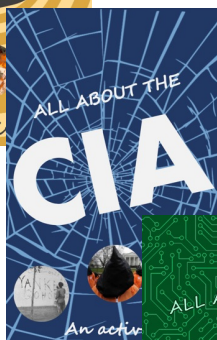
- A literary agent

"I can't find 10,000 enemies of America in this...wait it's a joke"

- A former coworker



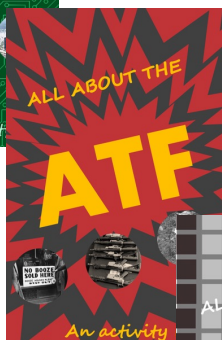
2022



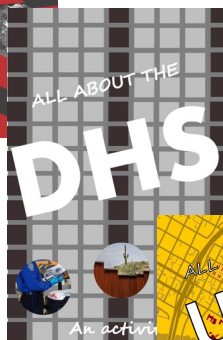
2022



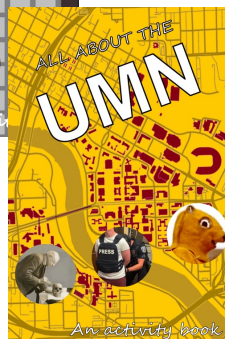
2023



2024

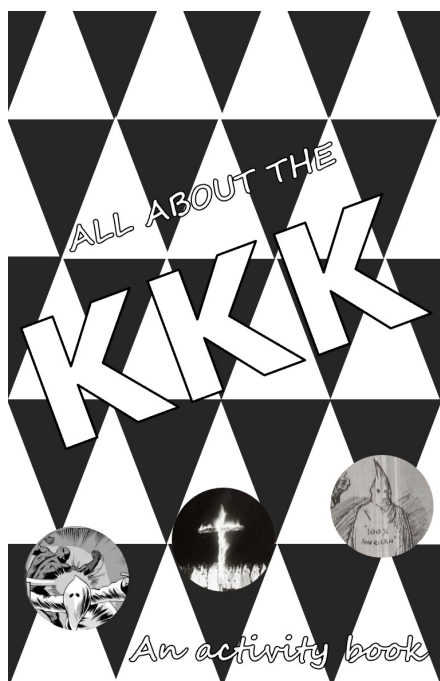


2024



2025

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